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PHILIPPINE ORTHOGRAPHY



NORBERTO ROMUALDEZ



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PHILIPPINE ORTHOGRAPHY

BY

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TO MY FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:

Here you have what I think our orthography should be.

On basic principles this book offers but little that is new. Garnished with something of my own knowledge, it is in reality a compilation of the opinions of a few Filipino linguists of the latter part of the nineteenth century and of some foreign philologists of the day. Many of the rules herein proposed are being adopted by some of the present vernacular writers.

My aim, in preparing this work, is to assist in systematizing and unifying the native writing.

I would have extended my investigations along some lines; but my official duties preclude my devoting the time it necessarily would require. I was prompted not only to fulfill my promise to my colleagues in the Academy of the Leyte-samareño Bisayan dialect, to publish my views on this matter, but also to respond to the request of the Bisayan Academy of Sugbo.

In presenting these theories which are subject to rectification on my part, it is not my intention that my ideas should prevail, unless, after having been studied, they are deemed acceptable. I am satisfied with submitting them to the judgment of the learned, and continuing my endeavors along this line, I shall hope for the adoption, in one way or another, of a practical, uniform and appropriate orthographic system that fits the present status of our phonics. Then, the long and rugged path leading to the final formation of the much discussed and greatly desired Philippine National Language will be smoother.

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Bakulod, Occidental Negros,
July 1918.



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Note.—The manuscripts of Prof. Conant herein referred to were courteously sent to the Author by Dr. Otley Beyer, Professor of Anthropology and Ethnology in the University of the Philippines.

PROPOSED PRINCIPLES OF PHILIPPINE ORTHOGRAPHY

THE VOWELS.

First.—*Our vowels should be a, e, i, o, u.*

The original native dialects had but three vowel sounds. For this reason our ancient alphabets had only three signs to represent these sounds. It was on this fact as well as on my knowledge of Leyte-samareño that I based the opinion expressed in our Academy in Leyte. At that time I maintained that in writing our Bisayan dialect we should use only the vowels *a, i, u*, which represent more accurately the vowel sounds of that dialect. However, in trips I have made thru regions in which Ilokano, Pangasinan, Pampangan, Bikol, Bisayan, and Tagbanwa are spoken, I have observed that the vowels *e* and *o* are pronounced clearly and distinctly. This is undoubtedly due to occidental influence under which many people have come to differentiate the sounds of *e* and *o* from those of *i* and *u* (Spanish sounds), forgetting the original phonics of Philippine vowels. Therefore, the case being of general orthography, I think we should adopt all of those letters necessary to represent the sounds that are actually being used in our leading dialects. It is on this ground that I now propose the five vowels as sounded in most of the continental languages, for our national orthography.

At any rate, this variety of sounds, so deeply rooted in many of our dialects, is an advance in that it affords greater euphony and prepares us to better assimilate foreign words with which to enrich our vocabulary.

Second.—*The vowel a should be sounded as in the Spanish word **mar**, in the English **arm**, in the Tagalog and Bisayan*

aga, (*morning, early*); **e** should be sounded as in the Spanish word **este**, in the English **they**, in the Pampangan **bage** (*thing*); **i** should be sounded as in the Spanish word **mil**, in the English **fill**, in the Bikol **bini** (*kindness, modesty, respect*); **o** should be sounded as in the Spanish word **moro**, in the English **long**, in the Tagalog **noo** (*forehead*); **u** should be sounded as in the Spanish word **tuyo**, in the English **full**, in the Bisayan **aguy** (*alas!*).

I believe these are the sounds of our vowels.

The greater or less intensity with which a vowel is sounded, as well as that momentary glottal sound, called by the ancient Tagalog writers "penúltima correpta pausal" or "penúltima correpta gutural" as the case may be, and which Dr. Saleeby recognizes as the sound of the Arabic "hamzat" or the Phoenician "aleph", should, in my opinion, be represented in our writing only with diacritical marks. It is not necessary that each grade of intensity, or way of sounding be considered a separate vowel as is found in Sanskrit, since such an arrangement would undoubtedly cause confusion.

Third.—*The vowels **i** and **u** should be generally used at the beginning and in the middle of words instead of **e** and **o**; and the vowels **e** and **o** should be used at the end of words instead of **i** and **u**.*

As stated before, we should adopt the five vowel sounds. In our spoken tongues we do not need to differentiate the *e* from *i*, or the *o* from *u* in order to avoid confusion. Many Filipinos now use *e* and *o*, but it is only substituting these vowels for *i* and *u*, respectively, not because the meaning or the words would change in one case or another, but due to the fact that they have adopted the use of a greater variety of vowel sounds. There is, in the nature of our words, no basis for a rule that would determine when to use *e* and *o*, and when to use *i* and *u*, except euphonical considerations. The rule contained in the above proposition is based only on euphony.

Rizal and Laktaw agree on this point as to Tagalog. After some study of several Bisayan dialects known to me (that of Leyte and Samar, something of Panayan, and a smattering of Sugbuan), I am not able to see why the same cannot be said with regard to Bisayan in general. My small knowledge of Bikol, Pampangan and Tagbanwa leads me to the same conclusion. As a general proposition, I believe that we can safely follow this vowel rule for all of our dialects, as they are known to have been derived from one common source. The reason is thus stated by Laktaw: "It is observed that *i* and *u* always precede *e* and *o* in a natural sequence of pronunciation." Certainly, the mouth tends to open towards the end of words. Thus, I would write in Tagalog *parine ka* (come here) instead of *parini ka*; and in Bisayan I would write *kabubul'on* (will) instead of *kabubut'un*.

Fourth.—*Unless usage permits otherwise, the preceding rule should not be observed in emphatical words, or when two identical vowels with or without a consonant after them, join at the end of a word.*

These are two exceptions to the preceeding rule.

The first exception is based on the fact that we sharpen the final vowel sounds of emphatical expressions. Thus we say in Sugbuan *imaayo gayúd!* (very well!)

The second exception is based on the fact that the Philippine phònics avoid and reject all hiatus or synalepha, for which reason we have no vowel diphthongs. When two identical vowels occur together in a word, it appears to be more euphonic not to alter either of them. It would cause a disagreeable sound to say *dién* (where) instead of *diín*; *nuó* (forehead) instead of *noó*.

Of course, these exceptions take place only when good usage does not permit the application of the general rule.

Fifth.—*There are no vowel diphthongs in the Philippine dialects.*

There is among the Filipino people a tendency to pronounce the vowels separately. It has been observed by Laktaw in Tagalog. It is also to be observed in Bisayan and in most of the other leading Philippine dialects. The vowels are pronounced separately in the Tagalog word *daan* (road), in the Bisayan words *baid* (to whet), *kaon* (to eat), in the Pampangan *maus* (to call). We do not pronounce the vowels as the Spaniards pronounce theirs in the words *azahar*, *maíz*, *zahorí*, *laúd*, or as English-speaking peoples pronounce the vowels in the words *ma'am*, *aisle*, *mouth*. This is the reason why some Filipinos not inured to English or Spanish tend to pronounce *pa-ís* (country), *ca-er* (to fall), *fa-iv* (five).

In the Tagalog and Bisayan words *wagás* (pure), *asawa* (wife), *sabaw* (broth), *paksiw* (a native dish), *atáy* (liver), *tulóy* (lodge) there is no diphthong. The letters *w* and *y* are here used as consonants. They have no vowel value in our dialects just as their corresponding characters in our ancient alphabets did not have. If these and similar words are written with *e* or *i*, and *o* or *u*, instead of *v* and *w*, they will appear deformed, because the resulting joined vowels will have to be sounded separately, according to the tendency of our phonics as stated in the preceding proposition.

This is why Dr. Saleeby says: "Attention is also called to the fact that the combinations *ay*, *áy*, *ey*, *oy*, *óy*, *aw*, *áw*, *ew*, *oe*, *ów*, are not diphthongal, but that the *y* or *w* in each case expresses its distinct consonantal sound while the vowel retains its exact sound always. Familiarity with pure native sounds fully corroborates this and aids in its full understanding."

THE CONSONANTS.

Sixth.—*The consonants should be* **b, k, d, g, g, h, l, m, n, p, r, s, t, w, y**, *their names being* **ba, ka, dá, ga, ga, ha, la, ma, na, pa, ra, sa, ta, wa, ya.**

Beginning with the names of these consonants, the ones given are the same as those used by our ancestors in naming their letters. These names ought to be preserved on account of their simplicity.

The reason why these consonants are the only ones selected for our alphabet will be found in the following paragraphs which discuss the suppression of some Roman and Spanish consonants, and also in the next proposition which will dwell on the sound of each of the consonants herein proposed.

The following letters are suppressed from our alphabet: *c*, *ch*, *f*, *j*, *ll*, *ñ*, *q*, *v*, *x*, *z*. Their sounds are either absent from our phonics, as *c* (in its Spanish soft sound), *f*, *j*, *v*, *z*; or do not exactly correspond to the sounds we use, as *ch*, *ll*, *ñ*, *x*; or are entirely unnecessary, as *c* (in its hard sound) and *q*.

We have not the sound of the Spanish soft *c*. Any person familiar with anyone of our dialects will admit it. This is why quite a few Filipinos say *gracias* (*gracias*, thanks).

The letter *f* is not found in Tagalog, Bisayan, Ilokano, Pampango, or in Bikol. If some accidental sound like that of an *f* is heard in these dialects, such is simply the meeting of the consonants *p* and *h* in the same word, like in the Leyte-samareño *típha* (brake it), and the Panayan *tíhag* (to moulder) which are pronounced *tip-ha*, *tip-hag*, without forming either a simple or a combined sound, but the *p* being uttered entirely independent from the *h*. Prof. Conant discusses thoroughly the existence of the *f*, as well as that of the *v*, in the Philippine dialects, and from what he informs us it may be safely concluded that a sound similar to that of an *f*, found in some regions of Northern Luzon, and in some places in Mindanaw, is not a primitive, original sound, but an accidental idiomatic substitute for some other consonant. I would not wonder if such a sound of *f* was only the result of that habit some persons have in pronouncing soft consonants like *p*, *k*, *t*, with some aspiration. This is recorded by Rizal as to Tagalog people of the provinces who pronounce *akó káin*, as if after the *k* there were an *h*. Some English-speaking people seem to have this habit also especially when uttering words with emphasis, like *power*, *talk* which sometimes sound as if they were *p-hower*, *t-halk*. At any rate, such a sound, if necessary at all,

may be represented with the combined letters *ph* as in the Bisayan words above mentioned: *tipha*, *tiphag*. It would not be any orthographic novelty as it has been used in Latin and preserved in many English words like *Philosophy*, *Philippines* etc.

We do not have the Spanish *j* sound. This is why Filipinos, not accustomed to Spanish sounds, cannot pronounce it properly. They either drop it, like in the word *debajo*, which often sounds as *deba*, and in the phrase *Jesús María y Josef* which is sometimes pronounced *Susmariosep*, the two *j*'s entirely omitted; or else they try to imitate the sound, but unsuccessfully, by substituting an *s* or *k*, like in the Spanish words *jugar* (to gamble), *jarro* (jug) *jabón* (soap), *relój* (watch, clock), which have been philippinized into *sugál*, *saro*, *sabón*, *relós*. *Josef* is *Kusíp* in Ilokano.

Dr. Saleeby adopts the consonant *j* in *jour*, or the English *s* in *vision*, which is found in some words in Mindanaw. He cites the Moro word which he writes *gaja* (elephant). In Leyte we do not pronounce it *gaja* (even giving the *j* the sound referred to by Dr. Saleeby) but *gadya*. The Hiligayno and Sugbuan *maayo* (good) is pronounced in Southern towns of Leyte, especially in Maasin, and also in Bohol *maadyo*. The Tagalog word *sayá* (joy) is pronounced in Panay and Occidental Negros *sadya*. Is not the *dy* sound in the words *maadyo* and *sadya* the same as that found in Mindanaw altho possibly a little bit softened, due perhaps to the influence of Arabic phonics? At any rate, I believe such a sound, not found in the most of the spoken dialects in the Philippines, may be represented by the combination *dy* either strengthened or softened according to local usage. I cannot see sufficient reason for the adoption of a new letter in our alphabet which would represent a sound that may be well considered as a mere idiomatic substitute, and which would be detrimental to our desired simplicity.

The consonant *v* does not occur in our dialects. It is reported that in some regions of Lusoŕ, a sound similar to that of a *v* has been noted; but, judging from what Conant and Scheerer inform us about the sound, it is simply another idiomatic substitute. It is the softening of the *b*. In view of the fact that this consonant is not an original Philippine sound, there is no scientific ground for writing the words *Visayan*, *Vigan*, *Vikol*, with *v*. Professor

Conant has to say the following: "As the native pronunciation is a labial stop *b* in both *Bisaya* and *Bikol*, in which languages there is no labial aspirate *v*, there is no justification for the English spelling *Visaya* now almost universally used colloquially and in the press, both in the Philippines and in America. This spelling naturally arose from anglicizing of Spanish *Visaya*, the popular spelling at the time of American occupation. Hence one hears colloquially *the Visayan language, the Visayans, the Visayan Islands or the Visayas*, and *Division of the Visayas*, this last being the official name of a military division. On the other hand, the word is spelled with *b* by nearly all writers on Philippine languages and ethnology".

The Spanish sound of *z* as well as that of the soft *c* is not found in our dialects. Many times we pronounce *sapatos, lapis* instead of **zapatos** (shoes), **lapiz** (pencil). The English sound of *z*, if found at all in the Philippine dialects, is only a combined sound, capable of being separated in all cases. The Tagalog word *sadsad* (to run aground) is pronounced *sad-sad*.

Exact sounds for the consonants *ch, ll, ñ, x* are not found in our dialects. There exist sounds that are similar but always compound and separable. It is incorrect to write *pucha* instead of *putsa* (a Bisayan word which means "wrap it," imperative of the verb *putós*, *putsa* being the contraction of *putosá*). It is correct to write the Pampangan *malyari* (may) where *mal* is a transformation of *mag* as it sounds in Tagalog; also the Tagalog word *alyamas* (varnish), the forms *mallari, allamas* being incorrect. These words cannot be properly divided into the syllables *ma-lla-ri* or *mal-la-ri*, and *a-lla-mas* or *al-la-mas*, but should be divided thus: *mal-ya-ri, al-ya-mas*. The same may be said of the Tagalog *anyo* (attitude), the Bisayan *minyo* (married) and the Tagalog and Bisayan *saksi* (witness), *lukso* (to jump), which are divided into syllables in this way: *an-yo, min-yo, sak-si, luk-so*, they appearing deformed if divided thus: *a-ño, mi-ño, sa-xi, lu-xo, or añ-o, miñ-o, sax-i, lux-o*. The Moro words which Dr. Saleeby cites and writes *ñyawà*, (soul), *manñayà*, (tyrant) are also present in Bisayan where they are pronounced *yawà, banyagà*, and sometimes *gyawa, bağyagà*, the *ğ*, not the *ñ*, being the consonant preceding the *y*. Therefore, this *ñ* which Dr. Saleeby reports may be

simply an idiomatic substitute of *g̃*.

The consonants *c* (in its hard sound) and *q*, as used in syllables *ca*, *que*, *qui*, *co*, *cu*, are not necessary, their places being better filled by the single letter *k*, thus: *ka*, *ke*, *ki*, *ko*, *ku*, a more simple and rational way of writing such syllable, and which is already being followed by many writers, native and foreign.

Seventh.—Our consonants should sound as follows: **b, k, d, l, m, n, p, r, s, t, y**, as in Spanish and English; *g* should sound as the soft Spanish *g*; **g̃** should always be nasal and **h** always aspirate; **w** as in English; **w** and **y** always be consonants.

As to the use of *k*, see the remarks regarding *c*, and *q*, in the preceding rule.

There are reasons to believe that the letter *r* is not original in the Philippine dialects. It may be observed in many cases that its sound is simply the result of a transformation of *d*, *g*, *l*, *y*, or other consonant. The Tagalog *araw* (sun, day) is *aggaw* in Ibanag, *aldaw* in Ilokano and Bikol, and *adlaw* in Bisayan. The Bisayan word *palaran* (fortunate), is a transformation of *paladan* a derivative of *palad* (luff, luck).

Our *g* needs no *u* with it to sound like the Spanish syllables *gue*, *gui*. Instead of *gue*, *gui*, we should write *ge*, *gi*, as we write *ga*, *go*, *gu*. The Tagalog word for "gold" and the Bisayan word for "lord" should be written *ginto*, *ginoo*, instead of *guinto*, *guinoo*.

The *g̃* is proposed for our nasal sound. Some writers represent it with the combination *ng*. I prefer *g̃* for its simplicity. Some writers think a simple *g̃* for our nasal may lead to confusion. There will be no danger of confusion if the letter is always written properly with a tilde above it. The Spanish *ñ* stands on the same ground. The Spanish words *ordeñar* (to milk), *moño* (tuft of hair) would mean different things if written *ordenar* (to arrange, to order), *mono* (monkey). In spite of this possibility of confusion, the *ñ* is kept in Spanish. As to the combination *ng*, it is not free from danger. The Tagalog and Bisayan *laḡaw* (fly) if written *langaw* may be pronounced *lan-gaw* which means

"vinegar" in Panayan. The simple *g* is found in the Philippine word *mga* which has been written in this form for centuries. It has been adopted in the titles of the Tagalog newspapers "*Muliḡ Pagsilaḡ*" and "*Aḡ Mithi*".

The letter *h* is always aspirate as in the Tagalog and Bisayan word *mahal* (dear).

As to *w*, see the remarks on vowel diphthongs, on page eleven.

Eighth.—*Our consonants are always sounded separately, except at the beginning of words when followed by h, w, or y.*

We have seen that there is no vowel diphthong in our dialects. The same thing is true of consonantal diphthongs. Our tendency to pronounce separately the letters, vowels or consonants, is general. There are some cases, however, where two consonants are combined in the pronunciation. Such cases are frequently the result of some contraction, and only take place at the beginning of words when a consonant is followed by *h*, *w* or *y*, as in the monosyllables *twad* (inverted), *syam* (nine) which are common to both Tagalog and Bisayan and are contractions of the bisyllables *tuwád*, *syám*.

ORTHOGRAPHICAL SIGNS

Ninth.—*We should have three orthographical accents: the acute ´ which represents the stress of the pronunciation of a syllable; the grave ` which represents the glottal sound; and the angular ^ which is the combination of the preceding two.*

Dr. Saleeby has proposed a set of different diacritical marks. I think, however, that the accents referred to in the present proposition, and which were proposed by Rizal and have already been adopted by several Filipino writers, are more simple and adaptable.

The acute accent represents the syllabical quantity only when it is necessary to avoid confusion. The grave is for the glottal

sound of certain vowels not stressed at the same time in the pronunciation. When a vowel bears both the glottal sound and syllabical quantity, the angular accent should be employed. Examples: the Tagalog words *bagá* (live coal); *bagá* (similar); *bagâ* (lung); *bagâ* (abscess). The Leyte-samareño words *suso* (to suck), *susó* (to mumble), *susò* (pressed close), *susô* (caracole).

Tenth.—*Words having a prosodical accent on the penult should be written without any acute mark.*

This rule is the same as in Spanish, except that the Spanish rule is not absolute. The exceptions in Spanish take place when the word ends with a vowel or with the consonant *n* or *s*. Such cases are remarkably frequent in the Spanish language, and for this reason the exception is justified. But that is not the case in the Philippine dialects, there being no reason why we should allow exceptions to the rule.

This rule is based on the fact that the pronunciation of a word having the penult prosodically accented is practically equivalent to that of a word without accent or with equal accent on all syllables. This is the reason why the Latin hexameter verse where the last foot is supposed to be a spondee, is many times found to end with a trochee, as seen in Vergil's *Æneid*, etc. Such words with a prosodical accent on their penult are called in Spanish "llanas", i. e. without elevations or depressions, and certainly, this kind of words needs no syllabical quantity mark.

Examples: the Tagalog and Bisayan words *tawo* (person), *tulak* (to push), *kamalig* (warehouse).

Eleventh.—*Words that bear prosodical accent on any syllable other than the penult should have the orthographical accent on the syllable stressed.*

This is a rule complementary to the preceding one. It is also an absolute rule, without exceptions.

Examples: the Tagalog and Bisayan words *matá* eye, *kagtá* (to bite), the Tagalog *táwiran* (a ford), the Leyte-samareño *mákanhi* (will come), the Tagalog *páparito* (will come), the Leyte-samareño *pápaliton* (will be purchased), the Tagalog *nábalitaan* (known by hearsay).

Twelfth.—*The grave accent should be used on the vowel glottally sounded when such vowel is not followed by another vowel.*

The reason for this limitation is because this accent is not necessary when the glottal sound occurs on a vowel followed by another vowel, like the Tagalog *kain* (to eat) or the Bisayan *kaon* (to eat). In such cases the two vowels are uttered separately, even if no diacritical mark is employed. This is due to the tendency in our dialects of having the vowels pronounced separately as stated under the fifth proposition, page eleven.

Therefore, the Tagalog and Bisayan *kalò* (hat), and the Bikol *gàbi* (evening) should have the grave accent on the *o* and *a*, respectively. But the Tagalog *bait* (good judgment, discretion), *doon* (there), *hilagaan* (North), and the Bisayan *diin* (where), *kabataan* (children) need no grave accent because the vowels are pronounced separately, and this separation produces by itself the glottal sound on the first vowel.

Thirteenth.—*The angular accent should be used only when the two accents the acute and the grave, concur on the vowel at the end of word.*

The two prosodical accents, the acute and the grave, that is, both the stress of pronunciation and the glottal sound may concur on any vowel not at the end of a word. But such a concurrence should not be marked in writing but on the vowel at the end of a word, because, according to the tenth proposition, no acute accent should be used on the penult, and it seldom happens, if ever, that a vowel before the penult is uttered with the glottal sound.

So these words should be written as follows: the Tagalog *baba* (to descend), the Panayan *baba* (mouth), and the Bikol *gabi* (evening).

Fourteenth.—*The apostrophy and hyphen should be used when necessary to show that a consonant is not pronounced with the vowel following it: the apostrophy being employed in cases of suppression of a letter or letters, and the hyphen in all other cases.*

Examples: the Bisayan *gab'i* (evening) which in Sugbuan is *gabii*, and the Tagalog and Bisayan *ag-ag* (to sift).

As stated in the proposition, these marks should be employed only when necessary, that is, when the word may be wrongly pronounced if they were not used. It is not necessary to employ these signs in the following words which would be pronounced correctly with or without such signs, as the Tagalog *kanya* (of or to him* or her), contraction of *kaniya*, a compound of *ka* and *niya* (he or she); *masdan* (to observe), a contraction of *masida* a derivative of *masid* (to observe); the Bisayan *tawga* (call him, her or it), a contraction of *tawaga*, imperative of *tawag* (to call); *kalamyan* (person or thing or place that has sugar) a contraction of *kalamayan* a compound of *kalamay* (sugar) and the suffix *an*. These words, even without any diacritical marks on them are pronounced as if written *kan-ya*, *mas-dan*, *taw-ga*, *ka-lam-yan*. It must be remembered that we have no consonantal diphthongs. (See the eighth proposition, page seventeen).

The use of the apostrophy in cases like the Bisayan phrases *wala'y* (there is no), *napulo'g pitó* (seventeen), *yadto'g* (that), as well as the use of commas in cases like the Tagalog phrases *guni,t*, (but), *baga ma,t*, (even though), *ako,i*, (I...) should be discontinued, for the reason that there is absolutely no necessity for using such marks as far as the proper reading of these phrases is concerned. If the aim is to indicate the suppression of letters, such indication is not necessary except for scientific purposes. Our dialects are highly agglutinating tongues. If all suppressions of letters are marked, our writings will be unsightly and complicated. I would write such phrases thus: *waláy*, *napulog pitó*, *yadtoğ*, *ğunit*, *bagamát*, *akóy*.

NATIVE WORDS DEFORMED.

Fifteenth.—*The original native form should be restored to all Philippine geographical names.*

This work has already been commenced by the Philippine Committee on Geographical Names created by the Executive Order No. 95, of November 5, 1903, reorganized in 1909, and reorganized again by the Executive Order No. 53 of June 23, 1917.

I am of the opinion that, among others, the following changes in the spelling of native geographical names should be adopted:

Lusóg (Luzón), because such is the sound whether it is considered as the Chinese word for island, or as the Tagalog and Bisayan word for mortar.

Bisayas (Visayas) because of the remarks made under the sixth proposition, page twelve.

Paḡasinán (Pangasinán) because this word is a derivative of *Págasín* (to make salt), from *asín* (salt).

Pam̃paḡan (Pampanga) or *Kapam̃paḡan* as the native call this province, because it is a collective noun derived from *pam̃paḡ* (bank of a river) and means *banks of rivers*.

Bataḡan (Batangas) which is the native sound, and is a compound of *bataḡ* (log) and the suffix *an*.

Buswaḡan (Busuanga) which is the native sound and is a word compound of *buswaḡ* (to spring, to depart) and the suffix *an*.

Kawit (Cavite) meaning hook, the shape of which resembles the form of the land at that place.

Wawá (Guagua) which is the native name, possibly of Chinese origin.

Masbat, (Masbate) which is a contraction of *masibát* (abundant in lances) a compound of the prefix *ma* and the noun *sibát* (lance).

Sugbo (Cebu) as the native call this island, province and city. *Sugbo* is a Bisayan verb which means *to walk in the water*, which the people landing at this place used to do at former times when the water in front of the city was shallow.

Hamtik (Antique) which means a kind of ant.

Dumagit (Dumaguete) a past, indicative mode, and present, subjunctive mode, of the verb *dagit* (to prey).

Sulsugon (Sorsogón) which means a thing to be followed like a river or road, from the Bisayan verbal root *sulsog*. This name was probably originated from the fact that, in order to reach Sorsogon by the sea, one has to follow the direction of that bay which resembles a big river.

THE FOREIGN WORDS

Sixteenth.—*In general, the foreign words should be written according to our orthography, using the sounds they actually have in our dialects if already assimilated, and preserving their original sounds otherwise.*

It is unavoidable, but to our advantage, that we should adopt those foreign words as may enrich our vocabulary. This happened to every tongue, and will continue more and more as intercourse among nations increase. But the system followed in adopting foreign words has not been uniform, and oftentimes no system at all has been followed.

The letter that the Hebrews, Phoenicians, Samaritans, etc. called *aleph* when adopted by the Ethiopians became *alf*, while the Greeks call it *alpha*. The Greek *aggelos* (*angel*), was adopted by the Latins and changed into *angelus* and the Spaniard made the word his own and shaped it as *ángel*. From the Greek *pyr* [fire] was derived the Latin *pyra* (bonfire), the Spanish *pira*, the Anglo-Saxon *fyr* (fire), the French *feu*, the German *feuer*, the English *fire*. What is London in English is *Londres* in Spanish, and what is *España* in Spanish is *Spain* in English. What in Rome was *Caesar*, in Germany is *Kaiser* and in Russia was *Czar*.

But it seems that a more fixed system is beginning to be followed in the languages, thanks to the invention of printing and to the progress of Philology. An account of this fact is as follows: "The invention of printing commenced a new era, though for a long time even this had little effect to fix the exterior form

of the language. Indeed, much of perverse orthography of books printed two or three centuries ago, is to be attributed to the printer who often inserted or expunged as the length of the lines or convenience of spacing required." (Orthography, from "Webster's New International Dictionary of the English Language", Springfield, Mass. U. S. A., 1911). The new tendency seems to be to preserve the original sound of the word, but to write it according to the rules of spelling of the language adopting it. Thus we find how the Spaniard adopted the English words *beefsteak* *meeting*, and the French *bureau*, by pronouncing and writing them according to his orthography *biftec mitin*, *buró*. The English language adopted the Indian words *tuna* a (tree), *kuli* (a certain, laborer from India, China or Japan), the Malay *bambu* (bamboo) the Arabic *huqqa* (a pipe) and gave them new forms according to their spelling: *toona*, *coolie*, *hookah*, *bamboo*.

The Filipinos adopted the English word *arrow-rot* and pronounce it *arorú* or *alorú*; the Chinese *tam-phoa-a* (something) which we converted into *tampwà*.

For this reason, I think we should write the foreign words as they actually sound in our dialects. Those words already assimilated should be written with their Philippine phonics, and those not yet assimilated according to their original native sound, but all according to our orthography. Examples: The Tagalog *kastila* or the Bisayan *katsila*, both meaning "Spaniard", a corruption of the Spanish word *Castilla*. The words *kabayo* (horse) from the Spanish "caballo", *Pebrero* (February), *Marso* (March), *Hunyo* (June), *Hulyo* (July), *Septyembre* (September), *Oktubre* (October), *Nobyembre* (November), *Disyembre* (December), *Hwebes* (Thursday), from the Spanish words *Febrero*, *Marzo*, *Junio*, *Julio*, *Septiembre*, *Octubre*, *Noviembre*, *Diciembre*, *Jueves*, respectively. The Tagalized word *lingo* for "Sunday" or "week", a corruption of the Spanish *Domingo* may be counted among those of this class. Some English words are becoming philippinized. The following may be cited: *beysbol* (baseball), *hatkeyk* (hot cake), etc.

Seventeenth.—As long as the general usage makes it necessary the original spelling of the foreign personal names and surnames that,

we use now as our names and surnames, and also the original spelling of foreign geographical names, should be maintained. That of those foreign names and surnames originated from languages not using Roman alphabet should be written according to the custom of each family.

This is an exception to the preceding rule. It is deemed necessary as a temporary measure until the general usage changes the present practice. The reason of this conservative measure is based on the consideration that it is neither easy to make the millions of Filipinos change their personal names and surnames, nor it is just to endanger the present existing economical and other relations with the confusion that any sudden change (if possible at all) in the spelling of our personal names would create.

The Bureau of Education is of the same opinion, as shown in its efforts to have the personal names properly and uniformly spelled, by publishing in 1905 the pamphlet entitled "List of Philippine Baptismal Names" which has been revised and republished in 1915.

The same remarks apply to the geographical names of foreign origin.

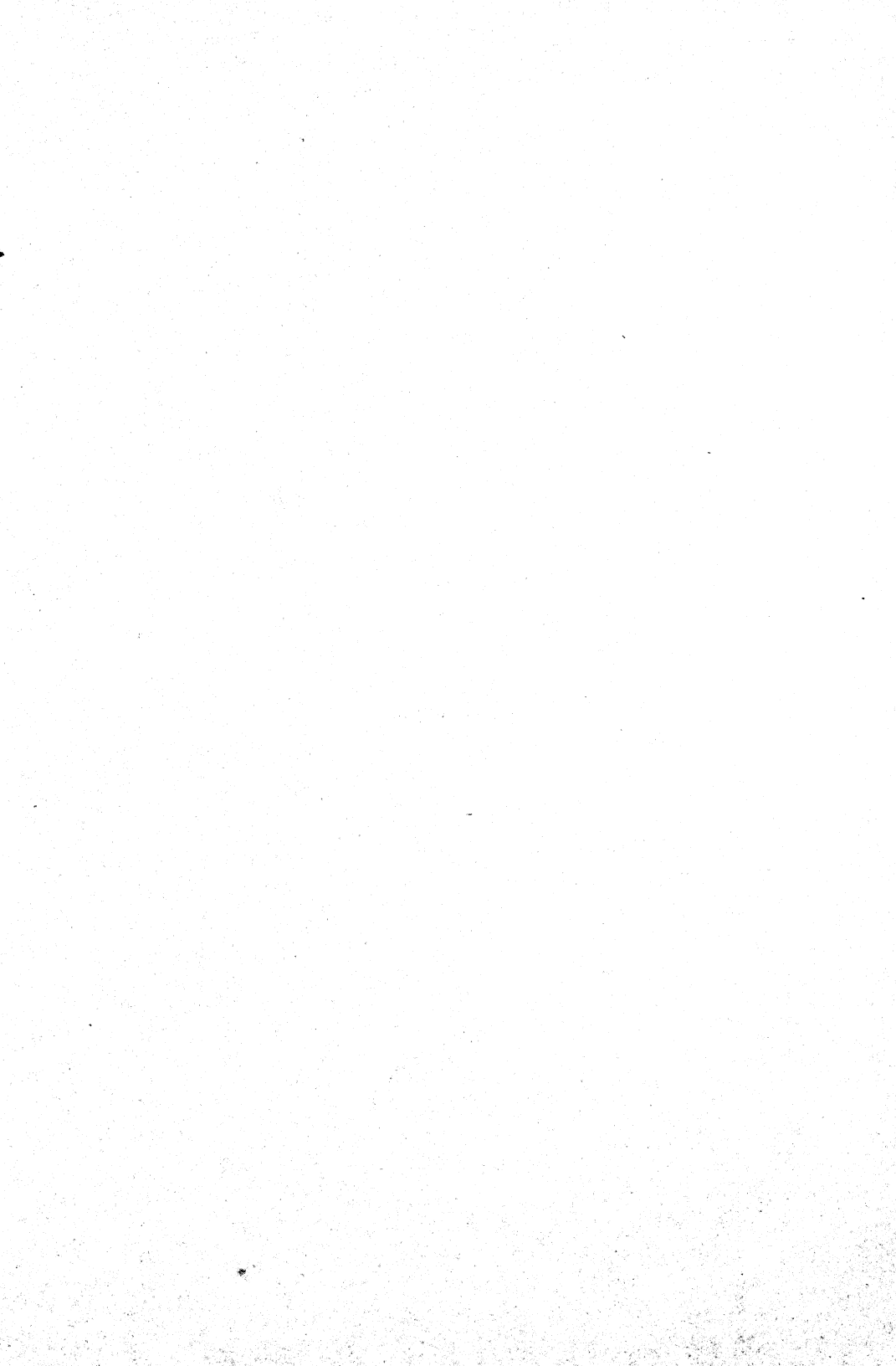
Therefore, I think we should continue writing *Catalino*, *Quirino*, *Zósimo*, *Roxas*, *Zaragoza*, *Fournier*, *Dreyfus*, etc. as personal names and surnames; *Filipinas*, *Rizal*, *Camarines*, *Negros*, *New Washington*, *Polloc*, etc. as geographical names; and *Yangco*, *Tuason*, *Chuidian*, *Limjap*, *Lichauco*, etc. as surnames originated from a language not using the Roman characters.



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